

GROUNDWATER MONITORING



UPDATING THE “350” RULE

Solid Waste Handling Standards, Chapter 173-350 of the Washington Administrative Code, is a regulation addressing waste management issues as diverse as used tires, surface impoundments, and incineration.

These rules govern how individuals, businesses and governments can manage solid waste, what materials can be recycled, when permits are required, and many other technical details.

Updating the rule allows Ecology to address emerging issues, look for ways to improve its effectiveness and get feedback from stakeholders.



Section 500 — Groundwater monitoring

Maintaining the high quality of Washington’s groundwater is a vital goal for the Department of Ecology. Section 500 of the Solid Waste Handling Standards addresses groundwater protection and sets monitoring standards for two types of facilities:

- Limited purpose landfills, as described in Section 400, “Limited Purpose Landfills”
- Surface impoundments that lack a leak detection layer, as described Section 330, “Surface Impoundments and Tanks”

The permit application for limited purpose landfill sites must include a site characterization report. The site characterization includes a review of the local and regional geology, a borehole program, calculation of a site water balance, and a conceptual design of groundwater monitoring systems.

A sufficient number of monitoring wells must be installed to yield samples from the hydrostratigraphic unit identified from the site characterization as the earliest potential contaminant flowpath. A sampling and analysis plan for the facility must meet the requirements of Section 500.

Laboratory analyses for the parameters listed, plus other pertinent constituents required in the solid waste permit must have sufficiently low detection limits to determine whether concentrations exceed groundwater standards. Statistical analyses of the sampling will be used to determine if there is a significant increase over background.

Contacts

You can find documents, schedules and other information on our website:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/rules/wac173350/1308ov.html

To be kept up to date on developments in the 350 rulemaking, please subscribe to our ListServ at the link above.

For questions on section 500, "Groundwater Monitoring," contact Cole Carter, hydrogeologist with Waste 2 Resources:

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Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6900 or visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/accessibility.html>. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Proposed changes

Changes to Section 500 in this revision are minimal. Most changes are for clarification and simplification. There are two significant changes, however:

- All groundwater monitoring data must be submitted in an electronic format by April 1 of each year. Upcoming guidance will provide more information on this topic.
- For metals analyses, since groundwater standards refer to "total metals," but ion analyses require "dissolved metals," both types of analyses will be required for some constituents.



Public input

After releasing a draft version of the revised 350 rule, Ecology will hold informal workshops to educate interested persons about the proposed changes. Feedback during this informal process may result in changes to the draft rule.

In September 2016, Ecology plans to formally announce proposed revisions. This will begin a formal comment period, including hearings where stakeholders can comment on the changes and ask questions that will be answered in the official rulemaking documents. Ecology hopes to adopt changes to the rule in the spring of 2017.

350 rule update schedule (dates subject to change)

Now	Draft rule available
July 21	Informal workshop—Lacey
July 26	Informal workshop—Ellensburg
July 27	Informal workshop—Spokane
Sept. 6	Informal comments due
December	Proposed rule filed
January-	
March, 2017	Public hearings on proposed rule
Spring, 2017	Rule adopted